

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1226

By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor Ron Thomas upon the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those remarkable professionals who have rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2004, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting thirteen worthy people into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2004 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes Ron Thomas, who has served with the utmost probity, integrity and ability as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration for the past twenty years; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman of singular management skills, Ron Thomas has expertly guided the Celebration to its current status as the largest single-breed horse show in the world; and

WHEREAS, by employing various marketing strategies, Ron Thomas has led the Celebration into a golden era of growth and prosperity in which it has become one of the most successful equine events anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS, throughout his brilliant tenure as CEO, Mr. Thomas has maintained the focus of the Celebration and has made sure that TWHNC has remained unwaveringly true to its primary mission, crowning Champion Tennessee Walking Horses; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Ron Thomas has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and he should be specially recognized on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ron Thomas upon his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, commend him for his meritorious service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee as CEO of TWHNC, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.